



West Lafayette Go Greener Commission  
609 West Navajo Street  
West Lafayette, IN 47906

## **West Lafayette Go Greener Commission Meeting**

Minutes of Regularly Scheduled Commission Meeting

Thursday, November 6, 2014, 6:30 PM

West Lafayette Public Library

Attending: Peter Bunder; Lindsey Payne; Spencer Evans; Thom Davis; Allen Jacobsen; Katherine Maziarski

Absentees: Bill Arthur; Parr Durr; Andrew Tuholski; James Britton; Tom Voight

Others: Dave Henderson; Cara Birschbach

### **Agenda**

- I. Spencer: Call to order & introductions, 6:32 PM
- II. Spencer: Introductions
- III. Spencer: Approval of minutes from October
  - a. Allen motions, Peter seconds, approved
- IV. Spencer: Approval of Commissioners
  - a. Katherine – MS degree in sustainable systems, interested in participating in community, particularly interested in recycling, bees, urban sprawl
  - b. Peter – WL Go Greener created to be a city commission that raises the profile of environmental issues; six years old; identifies/contributes to environmental issues in city with hopes of institutionalizing the work; only thing in county like this, so can bring in folks outside of WL
  - c. Spencer moves to appoint Katherine onto commission, Thom seconds, approves
- V. Guest Speaker
  - a. Lindsey – Cara was in the study abroad that I lead in Peru this summer, they had to do an action project and Cara did a project on composting in the Greek system
  - b. Cara – motivated by the organic waste bins at Machu Picchu and wanted to do something with composting at home, so looked broadly at the dining court systems, but too big, so looked at Greek system, targeting the house that I belong to, all food waste in thrown away, starting trial runs in next few weeks, overall goal is to get entire Greek system on board and to take enough food to bins at dining court, Purdue will not pick up another stop, then ultimately have Purdue pick up due to large load; questions for group – how to get Purdue to add another pick up, how to track success, i.e., data
  - c. Dave – easiest metric is to weigh the buckets, did a project with WLHS Ecology Club and there wasn't enough to make it worthwhile; PU dining courts (5 total) about 30-40 tons per month, will same size will take a while to add up; make sure to add in food prep waste; 3x methane gas production potential of typical waste solid; need to get entire Greek system diverting



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- d. Lindsey – track weight with two Greek houses over course of semester, scale up via assumptions and get other houses to sign onto commitment to do IF Purdue agrees to add another pick up, consider writing a service-learning grant (<http://www.purdue.edu/cie/learning/servicelearning/students/funding.html>) to cover buckets, educational materials, scales, etc., great thrift shop on 3<sup>rd</sup> and Chesnut for scales
- e. Peter – can get free buckets at ice cream specialties, Concord Road
- f. Spencer – if you have too much waste, you can probably bring extra waste out the farm if needed
- g. Peter – why not just take it to the farm?
- h. Cara – was focused on energy aspect, way to educate people that food waste can produce energy
- VI. Spencer: local food system in city?
  - a. Peter – city doesn't do anything specific to support this, but does verbally support the farmers market, a couple of community gardens
  - b. Thom – Facebook has created quite a networking system of local spots, I'm on one and now I've heard about a ton of others
  - c. Spencer – there are ways to support local farmers—food hubs, local food council, especially in Indiana where growing food is relatively easy for a large part of the year, there are ways to increase % of locally grown food
  - d. Lindsey – does Fresh Times, Fresh City Market, stock minimal local foods
  - e. Katherine – Marsh has organic, local, and regular
  - f. Spencer – just wanted to plant that “seed!” for future efforts, idea of a food hub is essentially a grocery store, 7 day a week farmers market, perhaps a spring project
  - g. Thom – could you do this all virtually?
  - h. Spencer – problem with that is you lose the lower income
  - i. Peter – could do with Food Finders to create a Food Pantry, but wouldn't pay full price for it
- VII. Lindsey: rain barrel project update?
  - a. Dave – we have a new park superintendent, Janet E. Foley, former parks administrator of Logansport, IN, takes off Nov-17, will ask Dan to start conversation
- VIII. Thom: can we get monthly recycling reports again
  - a. Peter – you have to be interested in statistics and data and makes it look pretty
  - b. Thom – I would be willing to do this for the group
  - c. Allen – I have the worksheets, will send them to you
- IX. Thom: Amtrak update
  - a. Someone is pressuring INDOT to replace Hoosier State with a bus line, IN Passenger Rail Alliance is working on a business plan to demonstrate positive operational cash flow



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along the Cincinnati to Chicago based on a convenient, frequent reliable service,  
community stakeholders are keeping it alive until February

- X. Peter: City council meeting was attended by Spencer and he spoke about our goals for this year
- XI. Spencer: Adjournment
  - a. Lindsey motions to adjourn, Spencer seconds, adjournment, 7:30 PM

Next meeting December 4, 2014, 6:30 PM!

Recorded by Lindsey Payne and submitted to Spencer Evans on November 6, 2014.

Approved October minutes submitted to Betina Cochran on November 6, 2014.